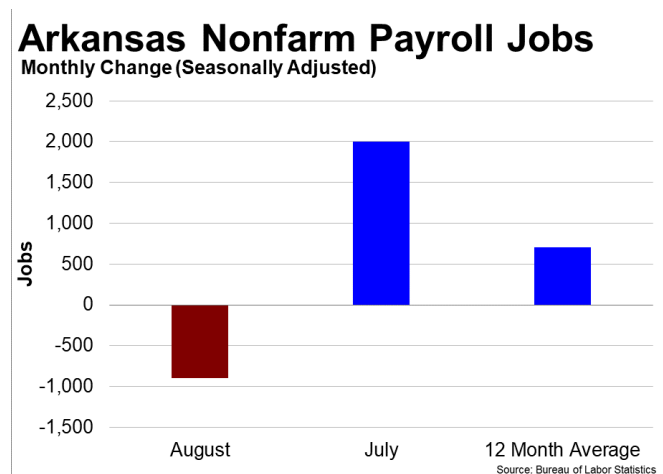
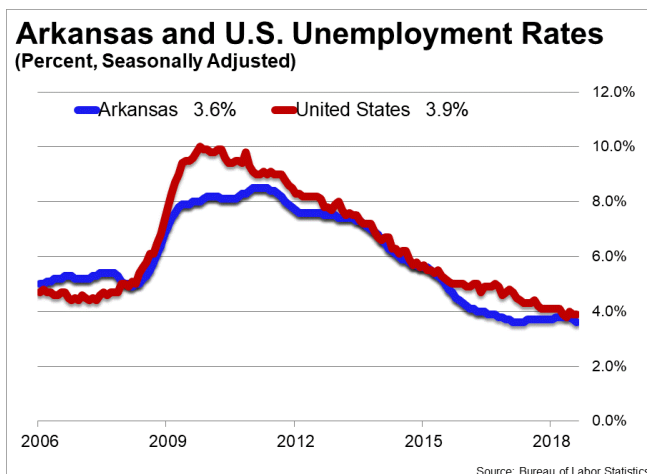




September 21, 2018

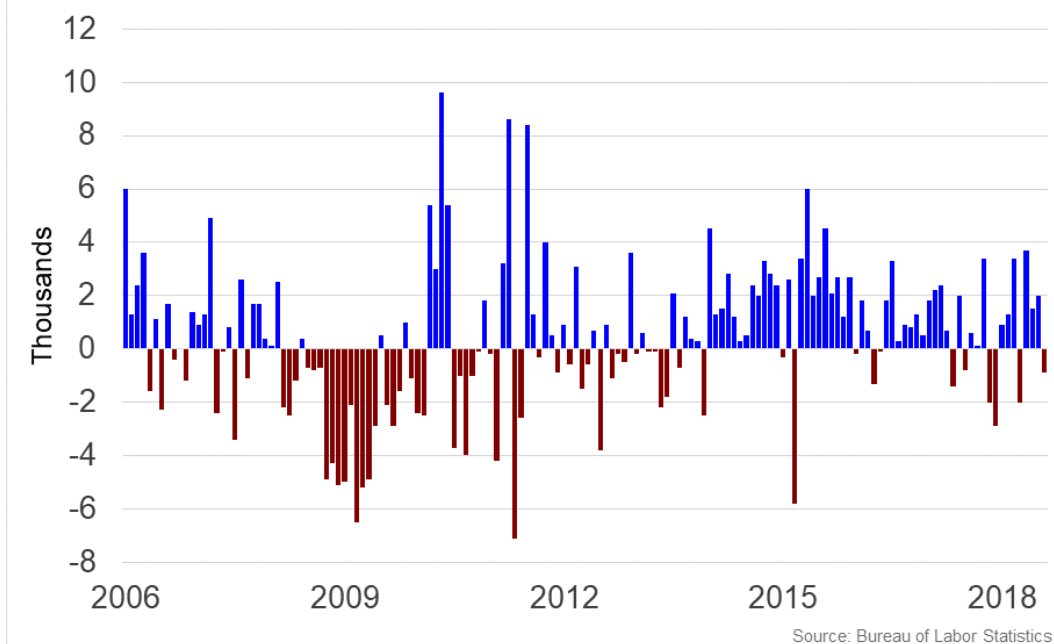
Summary

- **Arkansas lost 900 jobs and the unemployment rate declined by 0.1 percentage point to 3.6 percent in August** according to Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) data.
- **Over the past twelve months, Arkansas added 8,500 jobs** and the unemployment rate fell by 0.1 percentage point from 3.7 percent.
- **In August, Arkansas's private sector lost 800 jobs** and over the past twelve months it created 8,900 jobs.
- The number of **unemployed Arkansans fell by 1,419 in August**, and over the past year 8,601 Arkansans lost jobs.
- Arkansas's **labor force participation rate decreased to 57.5 percent** from 57.6 percent in August. Since last year, the labor force participation rate fell 0.8 percentage point.
- The national unemployment rate **was unchanged at 3.9 percent in August**. State employment and unemployment data for September is scheduled for release on October 19, 2018. The national employment situation report for September will be released on Friday, October 5, 2018.



Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

Monthly Change (Thousands, Seasonally Adjusted)



Arkansas Payroll Employment

Arkansas lost 900 jobs, or 0.07 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during August. In the prior month, Arkansas added 2,000 jobs. Over the past twelve months, nonfarm payrolls in Arkansas increased by 8,500, or 0.69 percent. Arkansas nonfarm payroll employment has increased in 8 of the past 12 months.

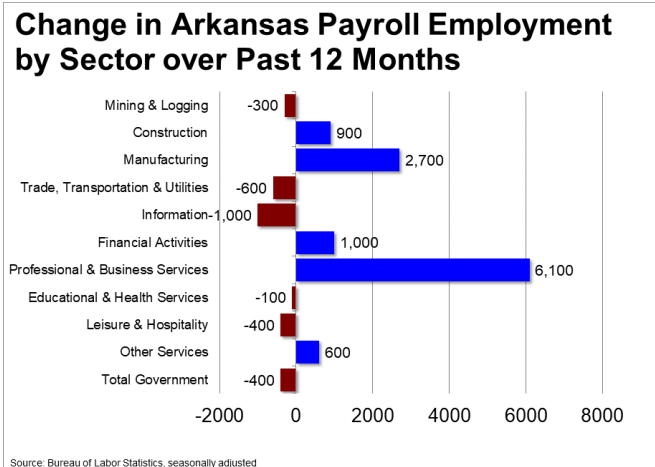
Nationally, nonfarm payrolls increased by 201,000 jobs in August, or 0.13 percent. Over the 12-month period ending August 2018, nonfarm payrolls grew by 2,330,000 jobs, or 1.59 percent. Arkansas ranks 22nd among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During August, Arkansas's private-sector lost 800 jobs, or 0.08 percent. The private-sector in Arkansas added 1,900 jobs in the prior month. Over the past twelve months, private-sector payrolls in Arkansas increased by 8,900, or 0.87 percent. Arkansas private-sector payroll employment has increased in 8 of the past 12 months.

Nationally, private-sector payroll jobs increased by 204,000 jobs in August, or 0.16 percent. Over the past 12 months, the nation's economy has added 2,329,000 jobs in the private-sector, an increase of 1.87 percent. Arkansas ranks 25th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in private-sector payroll employment over the past 12 months.

The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during August were Trade, Transportation & Utilities (+900), Financial Activities (+300), and Other Services (+300). The poorest performing sectors during the month were Professional & Business Services (-1,100) and Construction (-600).

The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Professional & Business Services (+6,100) and Manufacturing (+2,700). The poorest performing sectors during the last twelve months were Information (-1,000) and Trade, Transportation & Utilities (-600).



Arkansas Labor Force Statistics

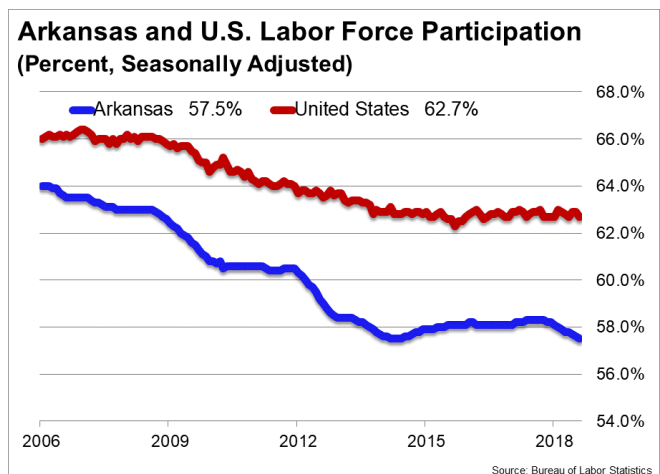
Labor Force Participation

The labor force participation rate in Arkansas declined to 57.5 percent in August from 57.6 percent the prior month. At 57.5 percent, Arkansas has one of the five lowest labor force participation rates in the nation. The labor force participation rate in Arkansas is unchanged from a year earlier. The labor force participation rate is the percentage of the civilian noninstitutionalized population age 16 and older who are employed or actively looking for work.

The 10-year high for the labor force participation rate in Arkansas was 62.9 percent in September 2008. The series high for the labor force participation rate in Arkansas occurred in January 1995 when the labor force participation rate hit 65.1 percent. The 10-year low for the labor force participation rate was 57.5 percent in August 2018. The series low for the labor force participation rate occurred in April 1976 when the labor force participation rate hit 57.3 percent. The national labor force participation rate declined by 0.2 percentage point to 62.7 percent in August 2018, but remains near its 38-year low of 62.4 percent.

Employment-to-Population Ratio

The employment-to-population ratio, or the percentage of the Arkansas civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, declined to 55.4 percent in August from 55.5 percent the prior month. At 55.4 percent, Arkansas has one of



the five lowest employment-to-population ratios in the nation. The employment-to-population ratio in Arkansas is 0.8 percentage point lower than a year earlier.

The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio in Arkansas was 59.3 percent in September 2008. The series high for the employment-to-population ratio in Arkansas occurred in January 1995 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 62.0 percent. The 10-year low for the employment-to-population ratio was 53.8 percent in February 2014. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio occurred in May 1976 when the employment-to-population ratio was 53.1 percent.

The national employment-to-population ratio declined by 0.2 percentage point to 60.3 percent in August. That rate was 0.2 percentage point higher than a year earlier. The all-time high for the employment-to-population ratio was 64.7 in April 2000. The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio was 63.4 percent in December 2006. The recent low occurred in October 2013 when the employment-to-population ratio dipped to 58.2 percent. The last time the employment-to-population ratio posted a reading lower than 58.2 percent was July 1983.

